

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Tax reform

Reagan signs tax-overhaul legislation

WASHINGTON — With the stroke of several pens and a renewed vow to oppose tax increases, President Reagan signed into law on Wednesday a far-reaching tax overhaul that he termed a victory for fairness and nothing short of a revolution.

"This is a tax code designed to take us into a future of technological invention and economic achievement, one that will keep America competitive and growing into the 21st Century," Reagan told an applauding crowd of aides, a dozen members of Congress and scores of corporate officials invited to the ceremonies on the sunny South Lawn of the White House.

The new tax plan, which Reagan put at the top of his second-term agenda, is patterned after the one he sent to Congress on May 19, 1985: significantly lower tax rates and a tax base broadened by elimination or reduction of several deductions and exclusions.

Most provisions take effect next Jan. 1, although many



will be phased in gradually. The new law will cut taxes by an average of 6.1 percent for three-quarters of Americans and raise taxes on corporations by \$120 billion over the next five years.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 will affect every person who pays a federal income tax and sweep onto the tax rolls many wealthy investors and profitable corporations that have been able to legally avoid the Internal Revenue Service through judicious use of deductions.

In Brief

U.S. begins pullout from drug war

LA PAZ, Bolivia — American troops and helicopters that were sent to Bolivia to assist in an all-out push against the flourishing drug trade will begin pulling out this week, the U.S. Embassy said Wednesday.

At least 30 of the 174 American soldiers and three of their six Black Hawk helicopters have flown from Trinidad to Santa Cruz, 250 miles to the south. From there they will return to their bases in Panama or the United States, said embassy spokesman Mark Jacobs.

Trinidad, a tropical city in the Beni region northeast of La Paz, has been the base for the war against the drug trade. The Americans arrived July 14 and have given logistical support to specially trained Bolivian police during raids on cocaine laboratories.

At least half of the Americans will be out of Trinidad by this weekend and the rest will be out of Bolivia by Nov. 15, Jacobs said. They had planned to leave by mid-September, but Bolivian authorities asked them to stay until Nov. 15 to assure continuity in the drug crackdown.

After the U.S. troops leave, the United States will loan Bolivia at least six Huey helicopters to replace the Black Hawks and will train Bolivian pilots to fly them, the U.S. Embassy said.

Soviets expel more Americans; withdraw workers from embassy

MOSCOW — The Kremlin said Wednesday that five more American diplomats must leave the country and withdraw the 260 maids, drivers and other Soviet workers who handle the U.S. Embassy's daily non-diplomatic operations.

Soviet employees may be replaced by Americans but an overall personnel limit placed on the embassy and the U.S. consulate in Leningrad may mean, for instance, that a choice must be made between having a cook or a diplomat.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov announced the expulsions and restrictions the day after 55 Soviet diplomats were ordered out of the United States.

Gerasimov's announcement brought to 10 the number of American diplomats ordered to leave in the current

exchange of expulsions, including the army and naval attaches.

About an hour after Gerasimov's announcements, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev told the nation in a televised speech that Tuesday's U.S. expulsion order against 55 Soviet diplomats was "simply wild."

"Of course we will take reply measures," he said. "Very tough measures, so to say, on an equal footing. We are not going to put up with such outrageous practices."

Gerasimov said the United States could replace the 260 translators, drivers, secretaries, mechanics, maids and cooks employed in the Moscow and Leningrad missions only with Americans.

He said the total number of staff members must not exceed 225 at the embassy and 26 at the Leningrad consulate, the limits imposed on the Soviet Embassy and consulate in the United States.

Gerasimov said four diplomats from the U.S. Embassy and one from the consulate were ordered to leave by Nov. 1, the same deadline given five other U.S. diplomats on Sunday and the 55 Soviets by the State Department on Tuesday.

They were accused of "impermissible activities," Gerasimov said, but added that their expulsion was a response to "anti-Soviet actions" by the United States.

Suicide fails; man savors life

SAN FRANCISCO — Kenneth Baldwin knew suicide was a horrible mistake the moment his hands slipped from the railing and he plunged off the Golden Gate Bridge.

But luck gave him another chance, and the man who beat the 100-1 odds of survival says he's "thrilled to be alive" and urges others contemplating suicide to give life another chance.

Depressed about his "dead-end" draftsman job and failure to capitalize on a psychology degree, Baldwin, 29, had been contemplating suicide for about a week before he made the 249-foot jump on Aug. 21, 1985.

Jumping was the most appealing method because "it wasn't messy," Baldwin said. But he also wanted to make a statement to the world. "Hey, look, you treated me really badly, that this is what you get for it."

Baldwin walked to the center of the span, grabbed the rail and vaulted over.

"I panicked when I pushed off and saw my hands leave the guardrail," he said. "I instantly knew I had made a big mistake."

The impact with the water after a three-second fall at 75 mph has been likened to a speeding car crashing into a brick wall.

Baldwin, who had quit his high school swim team because he was afraid to jump from the 3-meter board, said he blacked out before hitting the 58-degree water. He suffered only badly bruised buttocks, a cracked rib and a bruised lung. Doctors believe he hit the water in a modified vertical position that let the lower part of his body absorb the blow.

"I want other people out there who may be planning their own suicide to understand that nothing is worth taking your life, because when you are dead there is no hope, no possibility."

Lancaster, Scotts Bluff & Red Willow Counties

TONIGHT!

FREE upsidedown margaritas and door prizes for residents of Lancaster, Scotts Bluff & Red Willow Counties.

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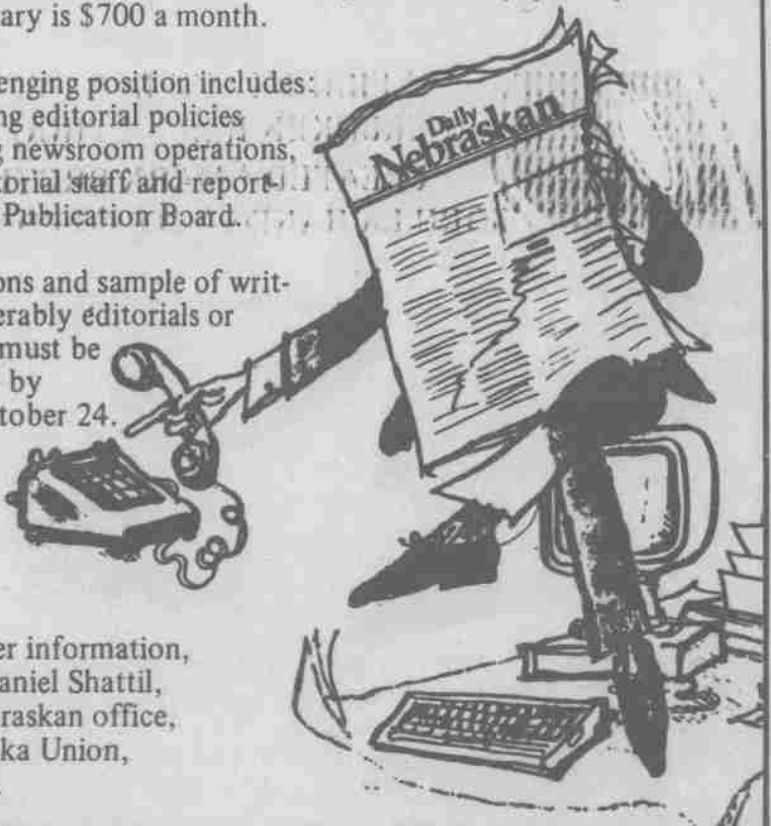
Wanted: Editor in Chief

A responsible individual is needed for the position of spring Editor in Chief of the Daily Nebraskan. Applicants must be UNL students and have a least one year of newspaper experience. Salary is \$700 a month.

This challenging position includes: formulating editorial policies; overseeing newsroom operations; hiring editorial staff and reporting to the Publication Board.

Applications and sample of writings (preferably editorials or columns) must be submitted by 5 p.m. October 24.

For further information, contact Daniel Shattil, Daily Nebraskan office, 34 Nebraska Union, 472-1769.



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U.S. gold coins sell out; dealers postpone sales

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Buyers spurred by "Patriotic fervor" snapped up the initial 800,000 American Eagle coins in two days, and officials were scrambling Wednesday to increase production of the nation's first gold legal tender in 53 years.

"They were going like hotcakes and I think it's great," said Clifford M. Barber, superintendent of the West Point Bullion Depository, the only facility minting the coin. The depository has been functioning around the clock, seven days a week since Sept. 8, when the first coin was struck, Barber said.

Some of the 25 dealers around the world authorized to distribute the coins attributed the rapid disappearance of their inventories to surging U.S. patriotism and the allure of a sure investment.

Other reasons cited by dealers for the coin's attractiveness were the stability of the U.S. economy, the strength of gold as an investment and controversy surrounding the South African Krugerrand because of that country's apartheid system of racial discrimination.